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LB 179

probably others. With that, I would ask the body to seriously consider returning LB 179 to Select, and adopting this amendment, albeit even if it's a stop-gap measure, to help those disabled Nebraskans that find themselves in this particular situation. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. On the motion to return, Senator Byars, please.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Coordsen, members of the body. Senator Hilgert, I applaud you for having the will to bring this amendment to the body. I certainly would support your motion to return to Select File. I'm not certain what the end result of that will be at this time in this session with this body, but I think the story that you've told very graphically and quite well explains some of the problems that people with disabilities have as they age. We, in this state, have done a wonderful job of understanding and addressing the needs of people with disabilities. But as we provide better care, better treatment, more supports, our people with disabilities are living longer, and this presents a new set of problems that we also must address. One of those is this exact issue of somebody who falls through the cracks. I don't think it has ever been the intent of this body, from a public policy standpoint, to discriminate in any way against people with disabilities who are in this...these circumstances. I applaud the members who are going to study this in depth, because it is an issue that we need to study, that we need to address. I'm not certain today is the day. I'm going to support Senator Hilgert on his motion to return and on his AM1553, but I also understand from a budget standpoint, from a money management standpoint, that possibly we need to look deeper to see what actions there are that we need to take. I think it was Senator Wickersham, and he can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think who stood before this body in other debates, other dialogues, has made it clear that we, as a public policymaking body, do make mistakes. There are times that we are wrong. And I don't think intentionally we stand here and make the wrong decision, but because of circumstances, information, we do make those decisions. So it is also incumbent upon us to change those wrongs when we have the opportunity. And I think this is exactly one of those circumstances. I applaud you, Senator